LAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines had to take prior approval of the Central Government before fixing fares and cargo tariff under the provisions of Air Corporations Act 1953. With the repeal of Air Corporations Act from 1-3-1994, the provision for taking prior approval of the Government also stands repealed.

Acquisition of Boeing 747-400 by Air India

6926. SHRI SURESH KALMADI; Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has decided to buy its fourth Boeing 747-400 through securitised debit; and

(b) if so, what are the complete details to be adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Air India is considering the possibility of restructuring the financing arrangements, through securitised debt, for the acquision of the fourth Boeing 747-400 aircraft to be delivered in June, 1994. However, no final decision has been taken.

Withdrawal of Vayudoot Service

6927. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the date when Vayudoot service on Bhubneswar-Jaypore-Vizag and Bhubneswar-Raurkela-Calcutta sectore were withdrawn by the Vayudoot authorities:

(b) the main reason therefor;

(c) whether the customers, particularly the tourist, travellers and executives are facing a lot of difficulties in the absence of air services from these cities; and

(d) if so, the steps taken so provide Vayudoot/air services to other cities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Due to commercial and operational reasons, Vayudoot services on the route Hyderabad-Bhubaneswar-Jeypore-Vizag were withdrawn in the month of September, 1989. The services on the Calcutta-Bhubaneswar and Calcutta-Rourkela sectors were withdrawn in October, 1987 and September, 1990 respectively.

(c) and (d) Requests are received for reintroduction of these flights but Vayudoot is not in a position to start its operation in Orissa due to the reasons mentioned above.

Expension of Bhubaneswar Airport

6928. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the expansion of Bhubaneswar Airport; and

(b) if so, the funds earmarked therefor;

(c) the target date set for completion of the Bhubaneswar Airport and

(d) the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Bhubaneswar airport is being developed as a model airport. The plan includes extension of runway to 9000 feet and construction of a terminal building at a total cost of Rs. 24.42 crores.

(c) The work on construction of terminal building is expected to be completed by March, 1995. No target date for completion of runway extension has been fixed, since the road passing through the land proposed for runway extension is to be diverted by the State Government.